

8519 '99 JUL 12 P3:23

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Chicago, Illinois, 60645-1124
June 19, 1999

Dr. Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration (HF-1)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD., 20857

I am very concerned about the growing reports of antibiotic resistant strains of disease bacteria. Illnesses once easily treated seem poised to be making a comeback, endangering human health and lives. Although this has not happened yet, it seems that a public health crisis is imminent unless action is taken soon. Just look at the new strains of tuberculosis that are emerging. TB tends to spread quickly in environments where humans live closely together. This is an exact description of late twentieth century urban America.

One action that can be done to reduce this threat is to limit the indiscriminate use of antibiotic drugs by livestock producers. Up to one third of all antibiotics are used by livestock producers for the sole purpose of fattening up their animals. This has helped lead to the dangerous situation we now face. The World Health Organization recommends that the use of antibiotics to promote animal growth be banned. This would still allow their use for the treatment of sick animals. I believe this to be a prudent course to follow and I urge that the U.S. adopt this position as soon as possible.

Given your position, I call on you to withdraw the approval of the FDA for the use of antibiotics to promote animal growth.

Sincerely,

George E. Milkowski
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